

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8.

The claims of this application are as follows:

1. (presently amended) A timing device for visually determining the passage of a preselected period of time comprising:
a redox indicator deposited within a matrix and in combination with a reactable metal ion, said matrix being exposable to air such that over a period of time during exposure to air, the redox indicator changes color and thereby indicates the passage of a predetermined period of time.
2. (original) The timing device of Claim 1 wherein the matrix is a film-forming polymer.
3. (presently amended) The ~~film-forming polymer~~ timing device of Claim 2 wherein the film-forming polymer is a cellulose derivative.
4. (presently amended) The ~~film-forming polymer~~ timing device of Claim 2 ~~having~~ wherein said matrix has a thickness based on ~~the~~ a wet film of said polymer of from 5 to 50 mil.
5. (presently amended) The ~~matrix~~ timing device of Claim 1 wherein the matrix is attached to an adhesive tape and is adhered to a package containing a consumer product.
6. (original) The timing device of Claim 1, wherein the redox indicator is selected from the group consisting of indigo carmine and methylene blue.
7. (original) The timing device of Claim 1, wherein the metal ion is Sn^{2+} .

8. (presently amended) A method for determining when a consumer product has reached an end to its useful shelflife comprising:

- a. preparing a timing device comprising a redox indicator deposited within a matrix which also contains a reactable metal ion ~~capable of oxidizing the redox indicator~~, said matrix being exposable to air;
- b. attaching the timing device to an outside surface of the consumer product;
- c. observing the timing device for color changes, which color changes coincide with the end of the useful shelflife of the said consumer product.